STOCKSBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Stocksbridge Town Council, held in the Council Chamber, Town Hall, Stocksbridge, on Thursday, 10th September 2026

PRESENT: Cllr. J Grocutt (Chair); Cllrs. C Wilson, L Fox, J Staniforth

IN ATTENDANCE: D Williams, Stocksbridge High School Headteacher

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76. To Receive Chair's Remarks and Apologies for Absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. R Crowther, K Davis, J Wheeler and A Law.

77. Exclusion of the Press and Public
There were no items for exclusion of the press and public.

78. Declarations of Interest
Cllr. J Staniforth declared an interest in Item 79 – Department for Education.
Cllr. J Grocutt declared an interest in Item 89 – Penistone and Stocksbridge Fairtrade.

79. D Williams – Stocksbridge High School Headteacher
The Chair welcomed D Williams to the meeting. DW shared that the school accepted the results of the most recent OFSTED inspection and that they were already working on aspects mentioned in the report. DW joined the school around a year ago and at that time, safeguarding was his primary focus. Safeguarding did stand out positively in the OFSTED report, which noted the school's open and positive culture of safeguarding. DW noted some reasons for the achievement decline, including curriculum revamps, leadership instability, and various other changes over the last three years. DW also noted the school's low exclusion rate, informing of its commitment to inclusivity. DW informed that the school demonstrated that they were in the process of making changes to improve achievement, with significant improvements in English and Maths being observed, personal development being recognised as a positive, and senior leadership being more highly involved. DW also noted the attendance decline over recent years and explained that attendance had already improved over the summer term, with a drive for improved attendance currently ongoing. DW informed that the warning notice may be removed if standards and objectives are met, and that a monitoring inspector was supporting the school, with progress expected to be reviewed around the end of October. This decision would be down to the Department for Education. DW was confident that the school was doing their best to reach these standards.
Cllr JS expressed that he appreciated the open forum held after the report was published, and asked DW about the curriculum changes, particularly in relation to the reduction of GCSE options. DW informed of the school's aims to prioritise good grades, depth over breadth, and student wellbeing. DW also noted that the option for a ninth GCSE was still available and could be considered on an individual basis.
The Chair thanked D Williams for attending the meeting.

80. Public Questions and Petitions
There were no public questions and petitions.

81. To Receive Remarks from the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9th July 2026
Item 69c – the Clerk informed that she had written to M Tidball MP requesting that she promotes a ban of the sale of disposable barbecues in light of the latest moorland fires.

82. To Approve as a True and Correct Record the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 9th July 2026
Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 9th July 2026, copies of which had been circulated prior to the meeting were taken as read.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. L Fox and
RESOLVED:- That the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chair.

83. Finances - To Receive and Approve Monthly Financial Statements including Budget Monitoring
The Clerk reported that the details of the Monthly Financial Statements had been previously circulated.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. L Fox and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council accept details of the Monthly Financial Statements including Budget Monitoring information for July and August 2026 as supplied by the Clerk.

84. Correspondence
Yorkshire Local Councils Associations
The Clerk reported that she had received correspondence from YLCA including:-
- Weekly News and Notifications – 10th July 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 24th July 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 31st July 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 7th August 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 14th August 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 21st August 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 28th August 2026
- Weekly News and Notifications – 4th September 2026

The Great North Fund
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the North Local Area Committee (LAC) informing of the Great North Fund, a funding opportunity for groups in the North LAC area (£5,000 per group). Application deadline 28th August.

Sheffield Grand Prix – Road Closures
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the South Yorkshire Combined Mayoral Authority (SYMCA) informing of road closures scheduled for Wednesday 22nd July due to the Sheffield Grand Prix event.

South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the South Yorkshire Woodland Partnership Team informing of the South Yorkshire Local Nature Recovery Strategy Consultation (led by SYMCA); a link to the comments survey was enclosed noting a deadline of 31st July.

SYMCA - Supertram Network Improvement Works 2026
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of a programme of rail replacement engineering works set to take place over the school holidays and Bank Holiday weekends between 28th March and 1st November.

Travel South Yorkshire – Free Travel for Children
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of a Travel South Yorkshire scheme offering free travel for children aged 5 to 15 throughout August.

SCLC Community Group/Volunteering Event
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (SCLC) informing of an event to be held at Zorro lounge on 30th September (4pm-6pm) focusing on local community groups and volunteering opportunities.

SYMCA – Bus Franchising Update
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of the latest bus franchising update.

SYMCA – Public Engagement Re. New Supertrams
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of a Public Engagement on plans for a new Supertram fleet from 10th August to 18th September.
Stocksbridge Family Fun Day
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the North LAC informing of Stocksbridge Family Fun Day to be held at Stockbridge Youth Centre on Friday 14th August.

Little Einstein's Nursery and Pre-School
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Little Einstein's Nursery and Pre-School inviting members to their 1 year anniversary event on 4th September at 6pm.

South Yorkshire Rural Crime Initiative
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA circulating information about the South Yorkshire Rural Crime Initiative.

Response from Marie Tidball MP
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Marie Tidball MP in response to the Town Council's letter requesting parliamentary consideration for single-use item charges on children's items. Marie informed that she had written to the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs requesting information on whether this issue has been taken into consideration and whether there are any plans to mitigate cost pressures of this kind on families and community facilities.

EMR Rail Service Disruptions
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of industrial action affecting EMR rail services between August and September.

STEP Regeneration Partnership
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a letter from STEP Charity introducing their new Regeneration Partnership Manager, Kathryn O'Donohue. They have requested an opportunity to meet with the Town Council to hear their perspective on the

priorities and opportunities for the area as they develop the Strategy and Delivery Plan. The Clerk suggested inviting them to the Town Council meeting on 8th October.

Stocksbridge Town Deal - August Newsletter
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from the Stocksbridge Town Deal Team enclosing their August Newsletter, which shared community updates on the work being carried out across Stocksbridge by the Towns Fund Board.

SYMCA – Public Engagement Drop-Ins Re. New Supertrams
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of further drop-in events throughout September in Rotherham and Sheffield providing the public with opportunities to find out more about the plans for a new Supertram fleet.

SYMCA – Additional Bus Franchising Update
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing that the bus franchising is progressing towards the first phase launching in September 2027, with dates for online briefing sessions provided over various dates in September 2026.

SYMCA – September Bus Franchising Update
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA containing further information related to the Bus Franchising Update.
YLCA South Yorkshire Branch Annual Meeting
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Yorkshire Local Councils Associations (YLCA) regarding the South Yorkshire Branch Meeting to be held on Wednesday 21st October. The Clerk requested that members submit any agenda items to the office before 2nd October.

Thriving Together - SCLC Community Group Event
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SCLC regarding the Thriving Together event on Wednesday 30th September. A table has been reserved for the Town Council to potentially provide information to the community about what the Town Council does, including its grant scheme.

Catch the Bus Month 2026
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from SYMCA informing of Catch the Bus Month 2026 throughout September.

Stocksbridge Community Care Group AGM
The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Stocksbridge Community Care Group (SCCG) informing of their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 1st October 10am-11.30am at Stocksbridge Town Hall.

85. Clerk's Reports
The Clerk reported that she had contacted Public Rights of Way to request information regarding the closed cycle lane at the side of Bloor Homes in Deepcar with no signage at either end. The Clerk was awaiting a response.

The Clerk reported that complaints had been received from members of the public regarding dog kennelling on Hollin Busk Lane, Deepcar. She informed that these concerns had been

shared with the RSPCA and South Yorkshire Police. The allocated Planning Officer had informed that they had received the response to the Planning Contravention Notice served at the property, along with full details of the use of the property. They are seeking an opinion from the planning team leader regarding its use, and whether they should be requesting the submission of a planning application.

The Clerk reported that she had written to Parks and Countryside to report vandalised trees at Oxley Park. She was informed that anyone who witnesses such criminal damage taking place should report it to the police at the time of occurrence, and that the Parks Manager would look into any action that may be available to help protect the remaining trees.

The Clerk reported that she had been contacted by the founder of a new local Community Interest Company, "Wings & Verse Pay it Forward CIC", which is aiming to develop local projects supporting people experiencing social isolation and challenging life circumstances. They requested assistance from the Town Council to provide a local facility or named address for their correspondence. They also enquired about funding opportunities for start-up grants or other support. The Clerk advised that she would raise these requests with the council.

The Clerk noted that a meeting had been held on 3rd September to initialise arrangements for the Remembrance Day Parade to be held on Sunday 8th November, and that meeting minutes had been shared with members. The Clerk informed that traffic management plans were in the process of being arranged with Amey / Sheffield City Council, and that she had requested the road closure signage be placed at the bottom of Lee Avenue to prevent vehicles having to turn around in the road further down.

The Clerk reported that she had written to Sheffield City Council and Marie Tidball MP requesting more frequent emptying of public litter bins, or larger / additional litter bins in key areas specified by the litter picking group. The Clerk noted that she had shared Marie's response with members, which informed that she is currently working on this issue and would write to the Town Council with an update when she has one.

The Clerk reported that she had attended the Community Action Group (CAG) meeting earlier today, 10th September, with Cllr. J Grocutt.

86. <u>To Receive Verbal Reports from Members</u>

a) Cllr JS reported that he had been handling bus complaints, discussions with Stocksbridge High School regarding curriculum changes, had attended a Towns Fund Board meeting, and a the South Yorkshire Transport User Group (SYTUG) meeting.
b) Cllr CW reported that she had attended Bolsterstone Village Festival, Stocksbridge High School Celebration evening, and had been supporting community casework.
c) Cllr LF reported that she had been supporting casework regarding parking concerns near the new library site and flooding issues at a residential property.
d) Cllr JG reported concerns regarding the number of power cuts affecting the area over recent months and suggested inviting a representative from Northern Power Grid to a meeting. JG also reported that she had attended Bolsterstone Community Group AGM; Stocksbridge Food Bank Community Shop; the Remembrance Day Parade meeting; had shadowed administrative staff at Stocksbridge Community Leisure Centre (SCLC); attended chair aerobics at Belmont, an SCLC board meeting; had promoted the tram survey; attended the CAG meeting; and Feel Good Fitness at SCLC.

87. To Consider Planning Applications and receive the Decisions of the Sheffield Planning and Highways Committee

The undermentioned planning application was received between meetings and the Town Council submitted the below objections:-

26/02423/CHU	67 Victoria Road	Use of dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) as a childrens residential home (Use Class C2)

- Loss of valuable unique housing stock (bungalow for elderly residents which are in high demand)
- Parking issues, especially at weekends where football traffic parks on bracken moor and Victoria Road
- Potential lack of management information i.e. who is the applicant applying on behalf of?
- Does the requirement meet the criteria for a children's home?
- We are currently seeing a great deal of new homes being built in the town. Many are executive homes and very little is affordable housing. None of this has taken consideration of the fact that Stocksbridge has an above average for both Sheffield and nationally elderly population
- May not be a suitable location due to population of elderly residents looking to down-size
- Insufficient parking, as parking is already a problem, especially on Park Steels match days
- Concerns that proposals for the new football pitch will additionally worsen parking
- Concerns around noise pollution
- Concerns around an increase in anti-social behaviour

The undermentioned planning applications have been received:-

26/01922/FUL	New Hall Farm	Demolition of existing pig shed and erection of dwellinghouse
26/01978/FUL	Green Head Cottage, Sunny Bank Road	Demolition of stable blocks and erection of a single-storey detached annexe
26/02109/FUL	Beachcomber Barbershop	Subdivision of basement flat to create two self-contained studio apartments including the erection of a single-storey rear extension
26/02170/FUL	588 Manchester Road	Demolition of retail shop and erection of detached commercial unit with associated ancillary space and parking provision
26/02423/CHU	67 Victoria Road	Use of dwellinghouse (Use Class C3) as a childrens residential home (Use Class C2)
26/02572/ADV	Land Adjacent Ford House 4 Fox Valley Way	1x internally illuminated fascia sign and 1x non-illuminated fascia sign

The undermentioned planning applications have been Granted Conditionally:-

26/00988/FUL	Victoria Motors	Erection of a single-storey side extension

26/00062/LBC	More Hall, More Hall Lane	External alterations associated with the repair of the building including replacement gutters/downpipes, chimney replacement/repairs and repointing to all elevations of the building
26/01597/FUL	52 St Mary Crescent	Erection of front porch to dwellinghouse
26/01751/ADV	Fox Valley Way S36 2AA	Additional internally illuminated signage to 2x existing totems
26/01314/FUL	Ewden Barn Bank Lane	Installation of flush-fit integrated solar panels to the roof of the building (Amended by drawings published on the 4 August 2026)

The undermentioned planning applications have been Granted Condition Application Decided:-

24/00120/COND8	Land At Junction With Carr Road Hollin Busk Lane	Application to approve details in relation to condition no(s) 27 (travel plan); relating to planning permission 22/00120/OUT
25/02008/COND4	Land Adjacent Ford House 4 Fox Valley Way	Application to approve details in relation to condition numbers: 3 (Surface Water), 11 (Broadband), 24 (Hard and Soft Landscaping) and 26 (Employment and Skills Strategy) relating to planning permission 25/02008/FUL
25/02008/COND3	Land Adjacent Ford House 4 Fox Valley Way	Application to approve details in relation to condition no(s) 10 (Renewable Energy); relating to planning permission 25/02008/FUL
25/02008/COND5	Land Adjacent Ford House 4 Fox Valley Way	Application to approve details in relation to condition number(s): 26 (Employment & Skills Strategy) imposed by planning permission 25/02008/FUL

The undermentioned planning application has been Granted Part Refused Part:-

26/01752/ADV	Land Adjacent Ford House 4 Fox Valley Way	1x internally illuminated fascia sign, window vinyls to trolley bays

88. Equality and Diversity Policy

Members considered the Equality and Diversity Policy as previously circulated.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council adopt the Equality and Diversity Policy as presented.

89. Penistone & Stocksbridge Fairtrade

Members considered a request for support from Penistone & Stocksbridge Fairtrade in relation to their endeavour to re-apply for Fairtrade status. All members were in favour of supporting the group's application once again.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. L Fox and
RESOLVED:- Stocksbridge Town Council fully supports the renewal of Stocksbridge's status as a Fairtrade Town and will continue to support the committee in its work to promote the Fairtrade initiative in our area.

90. Investment Accounts

The Clerk referred to the recently adopted Investments Policy. Members received information on potential savings accounts.
Proposed by Cllr. C Wilson, seconded by Cllr. L Fox and
RESOLVED:- That the Town Council approve the opening of savings accounts with both The Co-operative Bank and The Unity Trust Bank and complete any necessary bank mandates.

91. Grant Applications

a) Valley in Bloom

Members considered a grant application from Valley in Bloom requesting funding toward costs for grass cutting at the bottom of Haywood Lane.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and
RESOLVED:- That a grant of £1,200 be awarded to Valley in Bloom toward costs for grass cutting at the bottom of Haywood Lane.

b) Bolsterstone Community Group

Members considered a grant application from Bolsterstone Community Group requesting funding toward costs for a replacement interpretation board on Stone Moor Road.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and
RESOLVED:- That a grant of £972 be awarded to Bolsterstone Community Group toward costs for a replacement interpretation board on Stone Moor Road.

c) The Venue

Members considered a grant application from The Venue requesting funding assistance towards costs for a Halloween Party and a Christmas Party including entertainment, room hire and event staffing.
Proposed by Cllr. J Staniforth, seconded by Cllr. C Wilson and
RESOLVED:- That a grant of £1000 be awarded to The Venue towards costs for a Halloween Party and a Christmas Party including entertainment, room hire and event staffing.

92. Accounts for Authorisation

The Clerk noted that the JNC Pay Award settlement for 2026/27 had been received. 3.3% has been awarded to all salary scale points, backdated to 1st April 2026. The pay award had been incorporated in the September salaries.
Proposed by Cllr. C Wilson, seconded by Cllr. L Fox and
RESOLVED:- (i) That payments be authorised in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

		£	Made Under Power
Salaries/Tax/NI/Pensions	August 2026	4011.02	LGA72(S111)
	September 2026	4856.73	LGA72(S111)
4SLC Trust	Revenue Funding – Qtr 3	7500.00	LGA76(S19)

(ii) That payments be authorised in settlement of the undermentioned accounts in respect of The ARC:-

		£	Made Under Power
Document Solutions	Photocopying Charges	18.66	LGA72(S111)
Pollards	Coffee	57.50	LGA72(S111)
NRC Services	Cleaning Charges	928.26	LGA72(S111)
Stocksbridge Town Council	VAT Transfer Info Only £2058.68	2058.68	LGA72(S111)
Gemcall	Sanitary Waste Contract	350.00	LGA72(S111)

(iii) That authority be given for Direct Debits paid in settlement of the undermentioned accounts:-

July 2026:-		£	Made Under Power
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – Toilets	59.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – History Society	43.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – ARC	616.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – ARC Room 10	212.00	LGA72(S111)
Business Stream	Water Charges – Public Toilets	90.86	LGA72(S111)
British Gas Lite	Electricity Charges – Xmas Tree	13.70	LGA72(S111)
Public Works Loans Board	Loan Repayment	3379.37	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Broadband/Phone Charges	43.09	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Computer Charges	79.20	LGA72(S111)
EDF	Electricity Charges	594.49	LGA72(S111)
Moorepay	Payroll Services	76.47	LGA72(S111)
Business Stream	Water Charges	477.32	LGA72(S111)
Intuit Ltd	Quickbooks Package	19.20	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste Removal Charges	122.90	LGA72(S111)

August 2026:-		£	Made Under Power
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – Toilets	59.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – History Society	43.00	LGA72(S111)
Sheffield City Council	Business Rates – ARC	616.00	LGA72(S111)
British Gas Lite	Electricity Charges – Xmas	19.27	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Broadband/Phone Charges	44.54	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Computer Charges	79.20	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	IT Support	72.00	LGA72(S111)
MJRCC	Domain Renewal	24.00	LGA72(S111)
EDF	Electricity Charges	604.39	LGA72(S111)
Moorepay	Payroll Services	76.47	LGA72(S111)
Information Commissioner	Data Protection Fee	47.00	LGA72(S111)

Intuit Ltd	Quickbooks Package	19.20	LGA72(S111)
Veolia	Waste Removal Charges	180.52	LGA72(S111)

(iv) That payments be authorised in settlement of the undermentioned accounts made between meetings:-

Stocksbridge Town Council		£	Made Under Power
Goole Town Council	Yorkshire Day	110.00	LGA72(S111)
EE Ltd	Samsung Mobile Banking	115.00	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maintenance Solns	Monthly Water Monitoring	10.30	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Facility Maintenance Solns	Monthly Wallgate Maintenance	60.00	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Viking	Shredding Machine	65.51	LGA72(S111)
YLCA	Councillor Training	75.20	LGA72(S111)
Kingfisher Direct	Refuse Bags – Litter Picking Group	80.71	LGA72(S111)
T Bisatt	Mayor's Chain Engraving	12.00	LGA72(S111)
YLCA	Staff Training	37.60	LGA72(S111)
Look Local	Newsletter	528.00	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maintenance Solns	Monthly Water Monitoring	10.30	LGA72(Sch14P9)
Facility Maintenance Solns	Monthly Wallgate Maintenance	60.00	LGA72(Sch14P9)

ARC Management		£	Made Under Power
Micro Alarms	Access Control Service	89.10	LGA72(S111)
T Bisatt	Reimbursement Petty Cash	30.00	LGA72(S111)
A Holden	Window Cleaning Charges	60.00	LGA72(S111)
IPM Group	Security Call Out Charge	60.00	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maintenance Solns	Monthly Water Monitoring – ARC	20.60	LGA72(S111)
Viking	Padlocks	49.66	LGA72(S111)
Viking	Refreshments	6.49	LGA72(S111)
NRC Services	Cleaning Charges	941.36	LGA72(S111)
Micro Alarms	Annual Maintenance & Monitoring	561.56	LGA72(S111)
A Holden	Window Cleaning	60.00	LGA72(S111)
Record UK	Service – Automatic Doors	246.00	LGA72(S111)
Culligan Ltd	Water Cooler Charges	65.64	LGA72(S111)
Facility Maintenance Solns	Monthly Water Monitoring	20.60	LGA72(S111)

Chair